

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Claims 17, has been amended without adding new matter. Claim 18 has been canceled and claims 39-40 are new. The remarks below in response to claim rejections refer to claims as amended herein. Claims 1-17 and 19-40 remain pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 13-16, and 24-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,141,643 to Harmon ("Harmon").

As to claim 1, Applicant submits that Harmon does not disclose or suggest the following limitation:

a microphone embedded in one of the plurality of sleeves, wherein the electronic device is operated using a combination of finger movements and voice commands

This feature is not taught by Harmon. While Applicant concedes that Harmon teaches some facets of what is presented by Applicant's claims, including a glove with a series of signal pads, a connector and wires connecting the connector to the signal pads (Harmon, col. 2, lines 18-23)., Harmon only teaches a microphone "operatively coupled "to the computer processor (see Claim 7). Further, in Harmon, the processor is programmed to translate input speech from the microphone into symbols for display on a display unit (Harmon col. 7, lines 50-54).

However, in contrast to applicant's claim 1, Harmon does not disclose or suggest a microphone embedded in one of the plurality of sleeves. Furthermore, Harmon does not disclose or suggest operation of an electronic device using a combination of finger movements and voice commands.

Because Harmon lacks at least the above-recited limitation, Harmon does not anticipate claim 1 or claims 2-16 which depend from and further limit claim 1.

Claim 24 recites in part:

the apparatus having a microphone coupled to one of the plurality of sleeves, and the plurality of sleeves each having at least one contact-sensitive element for remotely operating an electronic device using a combination of finger movements and voice commands

Applicant submits that, for at least the reasons given above in reference to claim 1, Harmon does not disclose or suggest the above-recited limitation and therefore does not anticipate claim 24 nor claims 25-26 which depend from and further limit claim 24.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4, 8, 19-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harmon in view of Butler U.S. Patent No. 6,154,199 ("Butler"); claim 12 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harmon in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,987,310 to Gray. ("Gray"); claims 9-11, and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harmon in view of Natoli, U.S. Patent No. 6,388,657 ("Natoli"); and claim 23 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harmon in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,581,484 to Prince ("Prince").

Claims 4, 8-12, 19-23, depend from claim 1 and thus include the limitation:

a microphone embedded in one of the plurality of sleeves, wherein the electronic device is operated using a combination of finger movements and voice commands

As discussed above, Harmon does not disclose the above recited limitation and applicant submits that Butler, Gray, Natoli, and Prince do not disclose the limitation. Accordingly, even if Harmon could be combined with the cited references in the manner suggested by the office action, the combination would still lack one or more limitations of claim 1 and therefore would not have rendered claims 4, 8-12, and 19-23 obvious.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 27-38 have been allowed. Claims 17 and 18 have been objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

Applicant acknowledges the allowability of claim 17 and 18 and has rewritten claim 17 to include all the limitations of its base claim, as well as Claim 18 in alternative form.

New Claims 39 – 40

Applicant submits that new claims 39-40 as dependents of claim 17 each

include limitations not disclosed in Harmon, Butler, Gray, Natoli, or Prince nor any of the suggested combinations. For example claim 17 includes the following limitation:

the apparatus includes one or both of a (i) text-mode touchpad for instructing a voice recognition system to interpret spoken words literally as text to be inserted into a software application displayed on a display device by speaking into the microphone; or (ii) a command-mode touchpad for instructing a voice recognition system to interpret spoken words as operating commands for the electronic device or a software application by speaking into the microphone.

Conclusion

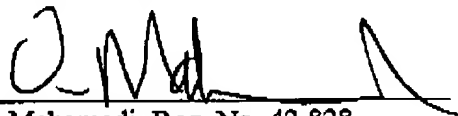
Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. If a telephone interview would be helpful in any way, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Authorization is hereby given to charge deposit account 501914 for any fee deficiency associated with this submission.

Respectfully submitted,

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